

In the Claims

Please amend the claims as shown:

- 5 1. (currently amended) A method for stabilizing a composition including hydrocortisone 17-butyrate therein, said method comprising the step of: adding an omega-~~6~~₃ acid to said composition.
- 10 2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of adding an omega-~~6~~₃ acid comprises adding linoleic acid to said composition.
- 15 3. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of adding an omega-~~6~~₃ acid to said composition comprises adding safflower oil to said composition.
4. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of adding an omega-~~6~~₃ acid further comprises adding said acid in an amount at least equimolar to a quantity of said hydrocortisone 17-butyrate.
- 20 5. (originally presented) The method of claim 4, wherein said amount of acid is substantially greater than said quantity of hydrocortisone 17-butyrate.
- 25 6. (currently amended) A method for inhibiting the isomerization of hydrocortisone 17-butyrate to hydrocortisone 21-butyrate, said method comprising the step of: disposing said hydrocortisone 17-butyrate in a composition which includes an omega-~~6~~₃ acid therein.
7. (currently amended) The method of claim 6, wherein the step of disposing said omega-~~6~~₃ acid comprises disposing linoleic acid.
- 30 8. (currently amended) The method of claim 6, wherein the step of disposing said omega-3 acid comprises disposing omega-3 acid as a component of safflower oil.
9. (currently amended) The method of claim 6, wherein the step of adding an omega-~~6~~₃ acid further comprises adding said acid in an amount at least equimolar to a quantity of said hydrocortisone 17-butyrate.
- 35 10. (originally presented) The method of claim 6, wherein said amount of acid is substantially greater than said quantity of hydrocortisone 17-butyrate.

11. (currently amended) A method for stabilizing a hydrocortisone compound having an ester linkage at the 17 position, said method comprising the step of: disposing said hydrocortisone compound in a composition which includes an omega-6~~3~~ acid therein.

12. (currently amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the step of disposing said omega-6~~3~~ acid comprises disposing linoleic acid.

13. (currently amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the step of disposing said omega-6~~3~~ acid comprises adding omega-6~~3~~ acid as a component of safflower oil which is present in said composition.

14. (currently amended) The method of claim 13, wherein the step of adding an omega-6~~3~~ acid further comprises adding said acid in an amount at least equimolar to a quantity of said hydrocortisone 17-butyrate.

15. (originally presented) The method of claim 13, wherein said amount of acid is substantially greater than said quantity of hydrocortisone 17-butyrate.

16. (currently amended) In a composition which includes hydrocortisone 17-butyrate therein, the improvement comprising in composition: said composition having an omega-6~~3~~ acid therein in an amount sufficient to stabilize said hydrocortisone 17-butyrate.

17. (currently amended) A method for stabilizing a composition including a 17-substituted hydrocortisone, said method comprising the step of: adding an omega-6~~3~~ acid to said composition.

18. (originally presented) The method of claim 17, wherein said 17-substituted hydrocortisone is a hydrocortisone ester.